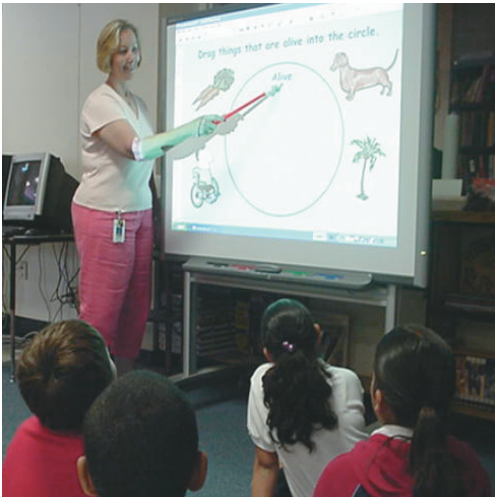


SMART Profile

Walnut Hill Elementary School



Teacher Jeri Kitner uses the SMART Board interactive whiteboard in her computer lab.

Students and parents benefit from SMART Board interactive whiteboard

Jeri Kitner's job as a teacher technologist at Walnut Hill Elementary School in Dallas, Texas, is no small task. Kitner oversees the computer lab and teaches computer courses to the school's 420 pre-kindergarten to fifth-grade students. She also delivers night classes to parents wishing to bolster their computer skills.

To help her accommodate the variety of ages and learning styles she encounters, Kitner relies on the SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard.

"The SMART Board interactive whiteboard is an excellent teaching tool because it makes learning fun and helps engage all students," says Kitner, who has been using the product in her computer lab for the past four years. "The interactive whiteboard helps me reach each and every student, no matter their learning style."

The SMART Board interactive whiteboard's touch-sensitive display connects to a computer and a digital projector. Students simply touch the surface of the screen to select icons, navigate websites and move images. With a large area for exploring and manipulating computer material, the interactive whiteboard promotes active, inquiry-based learning and energizes lessons. The key to the experience is touch.

"The pre-K students are just mesmerized by the interactive whiteboard," Kitner says, "and the parents love using it as much as the students. The parents are so excited, interested and amazed. Using the interactive whiteboard promotes a love of learning in everyone."

Walnut Hill currently has 15 SMART Board interactive whiteboards, which cater to diverse students such as those in the English-Spanish immersion program, made up of half English-speaking and half Spanish-speaking students. Teachers use the interactive whiteboards with SMART Board software to instruct in both languages. SMART Board software supports up to 36 languages, including German, French, Traditional Chinese and Simplified Chinese.

Kitner says resource teachers at her school make extensive use of the interactive whiteboard when working with students who have learning disabilities. "Not every student has the same learning style, so the SMART Board interactive whiteboard encourages the kinesthetic learners. They are able to touch and manipulate graphics on the interactive whiteboard and this in turn increases their understanding and learning," says Kitner.

Walnut Hill is part of the Dallas Independent School District, which has installed more than 700 SMART Board interactive whiteboards to date and plans to install an additional 1,000 over the next two years.

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Jeri Kitner,
teacher technologist